SIDBI has also granted refinance limits aggregating Rs. 239 crore for providing assistance to the SSI sector during April-July, 1993. Besides, SFCs have also been allowed to raise SLR Bonds of Rs. 205 crore in the first tranche during August 1993 to meet their requirements.

(c) and (d) SIDBI has reported that the release of term loans sanctioned to small scale industries and other industrial projects is, inter-alia, linked to the promoters bringing in their anticipated contribution towards the project cost as also the progress in the implementation of projects. SFCs do not normally withhold disbursement of loan to such industries.

Refund of Excess Import Duty to Desu

1928. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import duty of 30 per cent was levied on the power projects in the years 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Customs Department has charged the import duty varying from 175 per cent to 227 per cent on 220 K.V.X.L.P.E. cable purchased by DESU from M/s. Mitsui, Japan during the same period, though the said cable was certified as a power project by the Central Electricity Authority of India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that DESU has been representing, for refund of its money charged in excess; and

(d) if so, by when the excess duty charged from DESU will be refunded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The rate of duty applicable to goods for power projects falling under heading 98.01 of the Customs Tariff during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93 are as follows: (1)—upto 28-2-92 :

(i) Projects of Capacity 50 MW and below	40 per cent advalorem
(ii) Projects of Capacity above 50 MW	30 per cent advalorem
(2) From 1-3-1992 to 27-2-1993	30 per cent advalorem
(3) From 28-2-1993	20 per cent advalorem

(b) M/s. DESU had applied for registration of the contract for the import of 220 K.V.X.L.P.E. cable under Project Import Regulations, 1986 for assessment of the goods at rates applicable to power project. Since the Customs Authorities were of the view that the goods imported by M/s. DESU were not entitled for assessment as power project, the goods were assessed on merits under the respective headings of the Customs Tariff at varying higher rates of duty. An adjudication order was passed by the concerned Assistant Collector of Customs to this effect. An appeal against the said order by M/s. DESU has been rejected by the Collector of Customs (Appeal). M/s. DESU have since filed an appeal before Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. M/s. DESU have represented for refund of duties levied in excess of project rate. Regarding refund of duties, it will depend on the outcome of the appeal before Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Tribunal.

Commissioners of Income Tax

1929. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present total number of Commissioners of Income Tax; and

(b) what is the exact strength of the Commissioners of Income Tax belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes out of the above total number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY) (a) Two Hundred and Ninety Seven

(b) Twenty Eight

Head Office of Allahabad Bank

1930. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the head office of Allahabad Bank was in Allahabad when the Bank was set up, but later on it was shifted to Calcutta;

(b) whether Government propose to shift back the head office of Allahabad Bank to Allahabad; if so, by when; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal at present to shift the head office of the bank to Allahabad.

(c) The head office of Allahabad Bank has been functioning satisfactorily at Calcutta since 3-3-1923. Moreover, the bank has 798 branches and 22 administrative offices in Eastern and North-Eastern States. It has, therefore, not been considered desirable to shift its head office from Calcutta to Allahabad.

Refund of Money to Non-Allottees of Equity Shares of RPL

1931. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of non-allottees who applied for equity shares of Reliance Polypropelene Ltd. have not been refunded their money;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by the company/SEBI in this regard; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure the refund of money together with the payment of interest to the non-allottees at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Closure of Public Sector Banks

1932. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of public sector banks are likely to face closure by 1996 as a result of Government's commitment to ADB on financial sector reforms for getting a loan of $ 300 millions,

(b) if so, whether Government have since contemplated any steps to save the banks from closure; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) No, Sir. No commitment has been made in this regard to the Asian Development Bank.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Opinion of Experts about India's Economic Reforms

1933. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government officially invited a group of eminent economists to study the progress of Indian economic reforms;

(b) if so, what were the terms of reference assigned to the economists for the above study;

(c) what are the principal observations/recommendations made by the eminent economists;

(d) whether the contents of the Report submitted by these economists is at variance with the official assessment; and

(e) whether Government have accepted the recommendations made by these experts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The Finance Minister had invited Professor Jagdish Bhagwati and Professor T. N. Srinivasan, two of India's most outstanding and internationally recognised academicians, to study the ongoing economic reforms and to make recommendations for